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portion of the cornea of an eye;
said front portion having an overall dimension which is larger than the rear portion;
said blade having an edge for engaging said blade holder;
said blade holder having a top side and an underside said underside having a flanged portion which engages said edge whereby moving said blade holder correspondingly moves said blade; and
said underside of said blade being inclined at an angle with respect to said top side, said top side adapted to be driven by a pin.

3. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly for use with a surgical device that cuts at least partially across the cornea of an eye of a patient along an arcuate path, comprising:

a blade having a blade holder attached thereto;
said blade having a front portion and rear portion;
said front blade portion having a cutting edge for cutting a portion of the cornea of an eye;
said front portion having an overall dimension which is larger than the rear portion;
said blade having an edge for engaging said blade holder; and
said blade holder having a top side and an underside, said underside having a flanged portion which engages said edge whereby moving said blade holder correspondingly moves said blade.

Q1 4. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said underside of said blade being inclined at an angle with respect to said top side, said top side adapted to be driven by a pin.

5. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said front blade portion has a front dimension and said rear blade portion has a rear dimension, said front dimension being wider than said rear dimension.

6. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 5 wherein said front dimension of said front blade portion is defined by said cutting edge, which is wider than any dimension of said rear blade portion.

7. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 3 wherein said blade holder is formed from a plastic material and is attached to said blade by a press fit.

8. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly for use with a microkeratome that cuts at least partially across the cornea of an eye along an arcuate path, comprising:

a blade having a blade holder attached thereto;

said blade having a front portion and a rear portion;

said front blade portion having a cutting edge for cutting a portion of the cornea of an eye;

said rear portion including a side edge which is tapered with respect to said cutting edge;

said blade holder having an underside secured to said blade

a' and a top side including a recess adapted to receive an oscillation pin.

9. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said recess is structured to receive said oscillation pin from a generally vertical plane.

10. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said blade holder includes a sidewall which extends between said top side and said underside, said sidewall generally tapering from a front of said blade holder to a back of said blade holder.

11. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said blade further comprises an edge and said blade holder comprises a flange for engaging said edge.

12. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said tapered side edge comprises a generally linear taper.

13. A microkeratome cutting blade assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said tapered side edge comprises a generally rounded taper.

14. A microkeratome blade assembly comprising: a blade holder and a cutting blade connected to said blade holder, wherein said blade holder includes a top side including means for being operably driven by an oscillating pin.

15. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said means for being operably driven comprise a recess.

16. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade is shaped so as to avoid interference with movement along an arcuate path when oscillated.

17. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade comprises a cutting edge, said cutting edge being wider than at least another portion of said blade.

18. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade further comprises at least four edges.

19. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade further comprises a front portion and a rear portion.

20. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said blade further comprises a side which tapers between said front portion to said rear portion.

21. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 19 wherein said front portion includes a cutting edge, said cutting edge of said front portion of said blade is wider than said rear portion.

22. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said blade further comprises an aperture, said blade holder secured to said blade at said aperture.

23. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 22 wherein said blade holder comprises a lock segment structured to extend into said aperture.

24. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 14

further comprising a handle removably connected to said blade holder.

25. A microkeratome blade assembly to be used with a microkeratome having a cutting head assembly that moves across a positioning ring, the microkeratome blade assembly comprising:

a blade holder and a cutting blade connected to said blade holder, said cutting blade shaped so as to avoid interference with movement of the cutting head assembly as said cutting blade oscillates and moves across the positioning ring along an arcuate path.

26. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade holder is structured to be operably driven at a top side thereof.

27. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claims 25 wherein said blade holder is structured to be operably driven from a generally vertical orientation.

28. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade holder includes a recess structured to receive a pin from a generally vertical orientation.

29. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade comprises a cutting edge, said cutting edge being wider than at least another portion of said blade.

30. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade further comprises at least four edges.

31. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25

wherein said blade further comprises a front portion and a rear portion.

32. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 31 wherein said blade further comprises a side which tapers between said front portion to said rear portion.

33. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 31 wherein said front portion includes a cutting edge, said cutting edge of said front portion of said blade is wider than said rear portion.

34. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 wherein said blade further comprises an aperture, said blade holder secured to said blade at said aperture.

35. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 34 wherein said blade holder comprises a lock segment structured to extend into said aperture.

36. A microkeratome blade assembly as recited in claim 25 further comprising a handle removably connected to said blade holder.

37. A microkeratome blade assembly to be used with a microkeratome having a cutting head assembly that moves across a positioning ring, the microkeratome blade assembly comprising:

a blade holder; and

a cutting blade connected to said blade holder, said cutting blade shaped to provide clearance from the positioning ring as the microkeratome cutting blade assembly is oscillated such that said

cutting blade will not interfere with movement of the cutting head assembly across the positioning ring along an arcuate path.

38. A microkeratome blade assembly for use with a microkeratome having an interior chamber, the microkeratome blade assembly comprising:

a blade and a blade holder secured to said blade so as to be unitarily inserted into and removed from the interior chamber.
